

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /070 W

----- 076978

R 311511Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8340

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XG

SUBJECT: PONOMAREV, PEL/SHE IMPLY SOVIET HARD LINE ON ECPC

REF: MOSCOW 18459,

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1. SUMMARY: MOSCOW HAS APPARENTLY CHOSEN FORMER GDR PRESIDENT

WILHELM PIECK AS THE "SHINING EXAMPLE" OF HOW A LOYALIST COMMUNIST PARTY (OR LOYALIST COMMUNIST STATE) SHOULD REGARD ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. LENGTHY SOVIET PRESS REPLAY OF SPEECHES BY PONOMAREV AND PEL'SHE DECEMBER 29 ON OCCASION OF PIECK'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH, IN STRESSING PIECK'S UNSWERVING DEVOTION TO IDEA THAT MOSCOW IS THE GUIDING CENTER OF WORLD COMMUNISM, MAY INDICATE SOVIET PERSISTENCE IN PUSHING A HARD LINE DURING ECPC PREPARATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LENGTHY ARTICLES (APPROXIMATELY THREE-FORTHS OF A PAGE) IN ALL OF THE CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS DEVOTED TO THE CEREMONY FOR PIECK UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MOSCOW IS ASCRIBING TO THE FORMER GDR PRESIDENT AS A SYMBOL OF WHAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER COMMUNIST STATES SHOULD BE. PONOMAREV AND PEL'SHE REPEATEDLY PRAISE HIS "TRULY INTERNATIONALIST" APPROACH TO PROBLEMS, AND RECALL THAT HE "INDEFATIGABLY STRUGGLED AGAINST CHAUVINISM AND OPPORTUNISM"--I.E., THE TWO EVISL NOW CAUSING MOSCOW TROUBLE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE DISSIDENT PARTIES. PONOMAREV DWELLS ON HIS RECOGNITION OF MOSCOW "EVEN AS EARLY AS THE THIRTIES" AS NOT ONLY THE HEAD OF THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, BUT ALSO AS THAT OF THE "WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENT" AS WELL. THE PRESENT GDR LEADERSHIP COMES OFF WELL IN THE SPEECHES, MAKING CLEAR THAT THE EMPHASIS PUT IN THE IZVESTIYA DECEMBER 28 ARTICLE ON PIECK'S STRUGGLE AGAINST NATIONALISM (REFTEL) WAS NOT AIMED AT THE GDR. THE OCT 7, 1975, TREATY WITH THE GDR IS OF COURSE PRAISED AS A "SHINING EXAMPLE" OF WHAT MOSCOW'S VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER COMMUNIST STATES SHOULD BE.

3. THE OPERATIVE PASSAGE IN PONOMAREV'S SPEECH, FOR ADDRESSEES WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE TEXT, IS: "WILHELM PIECK DEMANDED A DEEP STUDY OF NATIONAL PECULIARITIES IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, IN THE CONCRETE CONDITIONS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT ON GERMAN SOIL, AND IN THE REST OF THE WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME, ONE THING WAS ALWAYS CLEAR TO HIM: THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA, AND IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM IN THE USSR, REFLECTS GENERAL HISTORICAL TRUTHS. AN UNDERESTIMATION OR MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLDWIDE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF (THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION) MAY RESULT IN SEVERE CONSEQUENCES AND FATAL ERRORS FOR ANY REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, ANY PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT WHICH SETS AS ITS GOAL THE OVERTURNING OF CAPITALISM OR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SOCIALIST SOCIETY."

4. PONOMAREV'S SPEECH ALSO REVEALS WHY PIECK WAS CHOSEN AS THE SYMBOL FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. HE RECALLS THAT AT THE SEVENTH COMINTERN CONGRESS IN 1935 PIECK WAS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS WHO FIRST PUT FORTH THE IDEA OF A UNITED FRONT AS A NECESSARY TACTIC TO STEM THE ONRUSH OF FASCISM. PONOMAREV THUS ESTABLISHES PIECK'S CREDENTIALS AS AN ADVOCATE OF A TACTIC WHICH IS REGARDED AS

ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN THE WEST EUROPEAN PARITES, AND THREFORE
SUPPOSEDLY SHOWS THAT PIECK (AND MOSCOW) ADVOCATE AN ENLIGHTENED
APPROACH TO THE PROBELMS OF OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES.

5. COMMENT: THE HEAVY PRESS PLAY GIVEN TO MOSCOW'S CONTINUING
CLAIM TO ASCENDENCY IN THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT MAY BE INTENDED
TO BOLSTER A HARD-LINE SOVIET POSITION IN PREPARATIONS FOR A
EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNISTS, PARTY MEETINGS, COMMUNIST DOCTRINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18605
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750452-0230
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975121/aaaaaaoy.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 18459
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PONOMAREV, PEL'SHE IMPLY SOVIET HARD LINE ON ECPC
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XG, ECPC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006